

Traffic Safety Announcement Backgrounder

Nov. 7, 2013

Traffic Safety Initiatives

Immediate action is being taken on more than half of the recommendations put forward by the Special Committee on Traffic Safety. The 14 action items include the following:

Impaired driving focus:

- Implementing zero drug and alcohol tolerance for drivers under 19 years of age, and for all drivers in the Graduated Driver's Licensing (GDL) program and Motorcycle GDL program (recommendation 1).
- Subjecting drug-impaired drivers to the same sanctions as alcohol-impaired drivers (recommendation 2).
- Strengthening administrative sanctions for drinking and driving, based on driver experience and number of offences, including mandatory ignition interlock for convicted impaired drivers and immediate roadside vehicle impoundments (recommendation 3).
- SGI will work with Corrections and Policing to determine and implement the optimal number of Drug Recognition Experts (recommendation 5).
- SGI will review the "Impairing Factors" section of the Saskatchewan Driver's Handbook (recommendation 11).
- SGI will analyze impaired driving data (recommendation 12).

Excessive speed focus:

- Lowering the speed threshold in the Safe Driver Recognition program from 50 km/hr to 35 km/hr (recommendation 16).
- Implementing a two-year photo radar pilot project at three high-risk locations and in school zones (recommendation 18).

Passenger safety focus:

- Making booster seats mandatory for children under 7 years of age, and less than 145 cm (4'9") in height and 36 kg (80 lbs) in weight (recommendation 25).

Traffic safety awareness focus:

- SGI will continue to work with First Nations and Métis communities to develop targeted traffic safety programming (recommendation 10).
- SGI and the Ministry of Highways will continue to work with First Nations communities to address local traffic safety concerns (recommendation 24).
- SGI will work with the Ministry of Justice and SLGA to research and implement technologies that can be used to make roads safer (recommendation 7).
- SGI will continue to produce traffic safety messaging throughout the year using various delivery methods (recommendation 9).
- SGI will review its communication strategy (recommendation 8).

Statistics

Fatalities on Saskatchewan roads 2008-2012:

Year	Number of Fatalities	Contributing Factors		
		Alcohol-related	Distracted driving	Excessive speed
2008	157	51%	31%	27%
2009	153	43%	23%	30%
2010	167	42%	37%	24%
2011	149	40%	33%	31%
2012	184	37%	38%	28%
Total	810	42%	32%	29%

Preliminary 2013* fatalities:

As of Oct 31, 2013, there have been 110 fatal collisions in Saskatchewan, resulting in 132 fatalities.

*These numbers are preliminary and are subject to change. Investigations are ongoing, therefore further details are not available at this time.

Tougher penalties for impaired driving

Administrative sanctions for drinking and driving, based on driver experience and number of offences (recommendation 3) will be strengthened in the province, as follows:

Offence:

	Current	Planned Change
New drivers – zero drug and alcohol tolerance	<p>Zero alcohol tolerance for drivers in the Graduated Driver's Licensing (GDL) program.</p> <p>1st offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 0-day immediate roadside licence suspension Complete the Driving Without Impairment (DWI) course within 90 days <p>2nd offence and subsequent offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 30-day immediate roadside licence suspension which is extended to 90 day suspension Complete an addiction screening and an education or recovery program before getting your licence back 	<p>Zero drug and alcohol tolerance for drivers in the GDL and Motorcycle Graduated Driver's Licensing programs and all drivers under 19 years of age.</p> <p>1st offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 60-day immediate roadside licence suspension 3-day immediate roadside vehicle impoundment Complete the DWI course within 90 days <p>2nd offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120-day immediate roadside suspension 7-day immediate roadside vehicle impoundment Voluntary ignition interlock for 120 days, can apply after serving a 60-day suspension period Replace addiction screening requirement with staged remedial programming <p>3rd and subsequent offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 18-month immediate roadside suspension 7-day immediate roadside vehicle impoundment Voluntary ignition interlock for 1 year, can apply after serving a 1-year suspension period Replace addiction screening requirement with staged remedial programming

	Current	Planned Change
Experienced drivers -.04 to .08 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC)	<p>1st offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-hour immediate roadside licence suspension <p>2nd offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-hour immediate roadside suspension increased to 15 days the DWI course within 90 days <p>3rd and subsequent offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 24-hour immediate roadside suspension increased to 90 day suspension Complete addiction screening and an education or recovery program before getting your licence back 	<p>1st offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3-day immediate roadside licence suspension Complete the DWI course within 90 days <p>2nd offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21-day immediate roadside suspension 7-day immediate roadside vehicle impoundment Replace DWI course requirement with staged remedial programming <p>3rd and subsequent offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 90-day immediate roadside suspension 14-day immediate roadside vehicle impoundment Mandatory ignition interlock for 1 year following the 90-day suspension period Replace addiction screening requirement with staged remedial programming

All drivers – over .08, impaired driving or refusal to provide a breath sample:

	Current	Planned Change
Roadside suspension	Immediate 24-hour suspension, extended to 90 days after SGI is notified	Immediate licence suspension up to court disposition
Vehicle impoundment	n/a	<p>1st and subsequent offences:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> .08 to .15 BAC: 30-day immediate roadside vehicle impoundment .16 BAC & over or refusal: 60-day immediate roadside vehicle impoundment Impoundment can be appealed to the Highway Traffic Board to take into consideration family hardship and health concerns
Ignition interlock	Voluntary, user pay	<p>Mandatory, user pay</p> <p>1st offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory ignition interlock within 90 days of federal sentence and will remain on for the duration of the suspension (up to 9 months) If a driver chooses not to participate in the first 90-days in the incentive program, they must have an ignition interlock for a year before a driver's licence is fully reinstated <p>2nd offence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory ignition interlock for 2 years, can apply after serving the mandatory order of prohibition, minimum of 6 months <p>3rd and subsequent offences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory ignition interlock for 5 years, can apply after serving the mandatory order of prohibition, minimum of 12 months

	Current	Planned Change
Safe Driver Recognition program	Incur the maximum financial penalty of \$500, or \$2,500 if the incident results in injury or death.	.08 to .15 BAC or impaired <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incur a financial penalty of \$1,250, or \$2,500 if the incident results in injury or death .16 BAC & over or refusal <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Incur a financial penalty of \$2,250, or \$2,500 if the incident results in injury or death
Addiction screening	Mandatory	Replace with staged remedial programming

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